

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Public Hearing for Proposed Power Plant Set for May 25th

MADISON - The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) will hold a public hearing on a power plant proposed by Power Ventures Group near Sheboygan Falls.

Citizens in the area are invited to attend the public hearing to provide their views about the proposed power plant. All testimony will become part of the record considered by the three Commissioners as they look at the social, cultural, engineering, safety and environmental impacts of the proposed power plant. Public hearings will be held at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Sheboygan Falls City Hall, 375 Buffalo Street, Sheboygan Falls, on Tuesday, May 25, 2004.

The PSC is an independent state agency that regulates Wisconsin utilities. The three Commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor, must approve a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity before construction on the plant can begin. Earlier, the PSC and the Department of Natural Resources completed an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed power plant as part of the review process. The Environmental Impact Statement is available at the PSC website at http://psc.wi.gov.

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) works in cooperation with the PSC at the public hearing and on the final Environmental Impact Statement in compliance with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act. Power Ventures Group must also obtain DNR permits and approvals to construct and operate the proposed facility. Separate hearings for some of the DNR actions may be scheduled if requested and will be announced at a later time.

Power Ventures Group applied to the PSC for approval to construct a natural gas-fired, 530 megawatt power plant in the Sheboygan Falls Township. Since Power Ventures Group is not a Wisconsin utility, the company originally proposed building the plant to sell electricity wholesale to other utilities in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

After applying to the PSC for the authority to construct the power plant, the company started negotiations to sell the power plant to Alliant Energy, which would in turn lease the generation to a regulated utility, Wisconsin Power & Light Company. PSC approval would be required for this transaction, as well.

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Later this summer, after reviewing the record, the Commission will hold an open meeting to discuss the major points of the proposed power plant. They will make an initial decision, which will then be detailed and issued as a written order.

Questions regarding the PSC public hearing process can be directed to 608-266-2806 or udaivirsingh.sirohi@psc.state.wi.us.

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